

Message Text

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15

ACTION SR-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 ITF-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0106
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USUN NEW YORK 1546

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REF: (A) GENEVA 3619 (B) SEOUL 3450 (C) STATE 111838

1. YAMMIN OF UNDP READ EMBOFF HIS CABLE FROM UNHCR
(REF A), WHICH SAID UNDP SHOULD ADVISE FORMER
CAMBODIAN MILITARY ATTACHE PAL SAMOR "AND OTHER SUCH
APPLICANTS" AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE.

A. APPLICATIONS FOR ASYLUM OF REGULARIZED STAY
AND REFUGEE STATUS SHOULD BE MADE TO HOST GOVERNMENT
DIRECTLY BY APPLICANT.

B. IF APPLICANT WISHES RESETTLE TO THIRD COUNTRY
HE SHOULD APPLY TO AUTHORITIES OF THAT COUNTRY,
USUALLY THROUGH LOCAL EMBASSY.

C. AT SAME TIME, APPLICANT SHOULD ALSO INFORM
HOST AUTHORITIES IN RESPECT TO ABOVE PARA, INDICATING
THAT WHILE HIS STAY LOCALLY SHOULD BE REGULARIZED, IT
MAY BE ONLY TEMPORARY. UNQUOTE.

2. CABLE CONCLUDED BY INSTRUCTING UNDP TO QUOTE
PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS THIS AND OTHER
SUCH CASES. UNQUOTE.

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3. YAMMIN INFERRED THAT UNDP SHOULD REFER PAL SAMOR
TO ROKG AND US EMBASSY, AS STATED REF B. HE BELIEVES,
AND EMBASSY AGREES, THAT CABLE OFFERS NO SPECIFIC
GUIDANCE REGARDING RECEIPT AND FORWARDING OF REQUESTS

FROM ROKG FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE (REF C). YAMMIN RE-ITERATED UNDP WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH DECISION OF UNHCR PER REF C AND HAS AGREED ON EMBOFF'S ADVICE TO ACCEPT AND FORWARD REQUESTS FROM ROKG. HOWEVER, HE IS CLEARLY UNCOMFORTABLE AT HAVING TO ACT PRIMARILY ON EMBASSY GUIDANCE, AND HE STATED THAT UNDP WISHES TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES WITHOUT ANY GUARANTEE IT CAN ACTUALLY ASSIST THEM. EMBOFF ASSURED HIM THAT FOR PRESENT HIS ROLE WOULD BE LIMITED TO FORWARDING LISTS OF NAMES FROM ROKG TO UNHCR.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT INSTRUCTIONS CITED ABOVE ARE CONFUSING IN THAT THEY APPEAR TO REFER REFUGEE APPLICATIONS BACK TO ROKG AND EMBASSY, WHEREAS WE HAVE BEEN TELLING REFUGEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS THAT THEY MUST GO THROUGH PROCESS OF APPLYING TO UNHCR BEFORE WE CAN CONSIDER THEIR CASES. WHILE WE HAVE NOW ENLISTED COOPERATION OF UNDP HERE, WE BELIEVE ARRANGEMENT COULD BE IMPROVED WITH MORE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNHCR OR UN.

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